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THE CUSTOMS SERVICE OF CHINA.

MR. TAYLOR'S ATTACK.

We received, some little time ago, a pamphlet written by Mr. F. H. Taylor, who is well known to all Europeans in the Far East for his able work as statistical secretary in Shanghai for the Maritime Customs Service of China. Had the pamphlet been an anonymous production it would have gone into the waste-paper basket after the first glance. As it was written by Mr. Taylor it deserved study and received close attention. It is very bitter, and it is hard to believe that the author of it is unprejudiced. The pamphlet is entitled "The Maritime Customs Service of China" and there is a sub-title "A Plea for Reform." But some of the criticism is personal, and one cannot escape from the idea that Mr. Taylor must have been suffering from a sense of his own grievances when he wrote some of the sentences. It is very much like a pamphlet written "agin the Government" the chief object of which, of course, is to bring about the retirement from office of the Prime Minister. One—if not the only—object of this pamphlet appears to us to be quite clear. Mr. Taylor would like to see the present Inspector General retired. We read on the first page: "Sir Robert Hart died in 1911 while on leave in England and was succeeded by his nominee and protégé, Mr. F. A. Aglen; an appointment that led to the gradual resignation of all the senior Commissioners whose circumstances permitted them to leave." Then comes a tribute to the late "I.G." which includes the following:—"He was almost revered by the bulk of his subordinates, and there were no complaints in his time that departmental machinery was not working smoothly. This is followed by statements directed against the present administrator of the service. "His successor has not been equally fortunate in gaining the loyalty and admiration of his staff. Not only is the out-door branch working with discontent, but most of the senior Commissioners are displeased at the want of courtesy shown to them, and by the curt disregard of their opinions, while the juniors make loud complaints of favoritism. Among the people disaffected is the out-door branch, which might even say that he is disgruntled and that he has allowed himself to lose his sense of proportion, a rather unfortunate failing for a man who has been dealing with statistics for many years."

The British merchants in China are naturally very interested in the Maritime Customs Service. Those of us who are not connected with it in any way have always felt proud of it as reflecting not a little glory upon the nation which was primarily responsible for its organization. The first "I.G." was Mr. Horatio Nelson Lay (1856) and the next man appointed was Mr. (afterwards Sir) Robert Hart (1893). Mr. Taylor says very little about Mr. Lay, but there are men living to-day who remember him as a man who deserved a great deal of the credit which ultimately went to his successor. Probably the first seven were the most critical years of the organization, but Sir Robert Hart was a unique personality and he was a very difficult man to succeed. We do not claim that the Maritime Customs Service is perfect—few organizations of the British are perfect—and possibly, for that reason, they have so often succeeded. We need only pause to imagine the sort of organization that would have been created in China if the "I.G." had been a German, to appreciate what has been done. No doubt it would have been, at any rate from the German point of view, "perfect" enough, but it would have ended like the most perfect military machine ever devised—in disaster. It would have been metallic in its efficiency, but also quite selfish. We have no hesitation in saying that, in the beginning, the British could have schemed to exclude all other nationalities from the Service and they could have accomplished that end. They did not do so, but, on the contrary, made arrangements which, on the whole, have been most successful. We have only to remember the suppression of pirates, the establishment of lighthouses and the beginnings of the Postal Service in China to realize that the Customs Service has done more than regulate the collection of Customs in itself no small task—in China. The beginning was, and the subsequent development of the Service has been, perhaps, haphazard, but it has done fine work. If there are grievances, which is not at all unlikely, let them be set forth definitely and clearly, without any suspicion of personalities. The only constructive idea in the article is that a Board should control the "I.G." Any thing more hopeless in China it would be difficult to imagine. The opportunities for intrigue would be many, the friction perpetual. We cannot commend our readers to consider seriously this pamphlet, and moreover, we think that the author has done no service to his country by writing it. The sooner it is forgotten the better.

SERVICES' ENTERTAINMENT FUND

The Rev. F. G. Hastings, R.N., hon. treasurer of the above fund, acknowledges gratefully the following monthly subscriptions for the period ended 21st January:—

R. M. Dyer	£10
H. W. Looker	10
P. Greig (Jan-Mar)	15
Dr. Forsythe (Dec-Jan)	20
W. A. Hannibal (Jan-Mar)	15
Monthly subscriber	5
Total	£75

GERMANS AND CEYLON.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S VOTES FOR EXCLUSION.

In the Ceylon Legislative Council on December 11th, the Hon. Mr. Hayshe-Eliot moved:—"That in the opinion of this Council no German or Austrian should be permitted to reside in Ceylon, at any rate till after the lapse of some years."

Mr. Hayshe-Eliot said the object of this motion must be apparent to all members of the Council. It was highly desirable that the Colony should record in no indefinite terms the desirability of excluding, for some years, Germans and Austrians from residence in their midst. One did not broach the subject through any feeling of revenge, but rather from a sense of justice, for the people who had outraged the conventions of civilization in war were not fit to mix with them. Their evil doings were known to the world and the recent revelations of their cruelties to their prisoners-of-war in Germany filled one with indignation. If this motion was the sum total of their misdeeds, it would be quite enough to make them abhorred, but they could not and never would forget the deliberate drowning of women and children and the torpedoing of hospital ships. They must remember that these acts were known and applauded by the whole German nation. The Imperial Government would doubtless disavow their proposals in this matter but at the same time he considered that the voice of this Colony should be heard and its opinion recorded in no uncertain terms. He trusted that hon. members would give this motion their hearty support.

EXCLUSION FOR SAFETY'S SAKE.

The Hon. Dr. Fernando, in seconding the motion, said the Hon. the Rural Member had said that he brought forward the motion from considerations of justice, but the speaker would add that it was also out of consideration for the safety of the people of this country and their trade, and in this connection he instanced his personal knowledge of the misdeeds of German traders in the Colony before the war.

The Hon. Mr. Tillockerathie also supported the motion and urged that they should not only exclude German and Austrians but all their late enemies. The Hon. Mr. Ramasathan said he endorsed the remarks of the previous speakers, but he asked what would happen to a German who had married a Ceylonese lady. He knew personally of a Ceylonese interned in Australia. Did they intend allowing him to return to Ceylon, or would it be necessary for his wife and her child, to leave the island if she wished to live with her husband. Mr. Ramasathan added in conclusion that he did not profess to understand the subject and merely mentioned the instance referred to as it seemed to him to raise a difficulty.

EXPRESSION OF OPINION DESIRABLE.

His Excellency the Governor said:—"The object of this motion is to support the Government of this Colony in sending forth to the Secretary of State the views of the Council with regard to the return of Germans and Austrians to the Colony. I understand from what I have read in telegrams from England that it is the intention of the Imperial Government to pass legislation in England and I presume, therefore, that if this Colony states its views in regard to this matter we may be asked here to pass legislation in Ceylon similar to that to be passed in the United Kingdom. The Hon. Mr. Ramasathan has raised a difficult question. It is one, however, which the Law Officers of the Crown in England will undoubtedly consider. If a Ceylonese lady is married to a German she takes the nationality of her husband, and we should take that matter into consideration if legislation is passed. We shall be assisted by the fact that in England ladies have married Germans, thereby taking upon themselves the nationality of their husbands, so that this question will be considered at Home. Therefore, I think, we are safe in sending the Secretary of State the views of this country knowing that legislation at Home will take all points into consideration. The motion was then passed."

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

ORDERS ISSUED BY MR. F. C. JENKIN, C.B.E.

GOOD SERVICE MEDAL.

General Order No. 4 of 1918 states:—"H.E. the Officer Administering the Government has been pleased to grant the Police Reserve Good Service Medal to P. 404 Lam Kwai Yien, who has been commended on three occasions, since October, 1916, for zealous and courageous conduct."

ROUTE MARCH.
All ranks except patrolmen on duty will parade at Central Station on Tuesday, January 29th, at 5.25 p.m. Uniform: Caps and Covers, Belts and Rifles. Inspectors will wear Swords and Belts.

SERVICE RIFLES.
Members of Nos. 1 and 2 Platoon will draw their Service Rifles from Armoury on either of the following dates:—

Friday, January 24th, 5.15-5.45 p.m.
Tuesday, January 28th, 5.00-5.30 p.m.
All Superintendents and Inspectors are required to attend at Headquarters Office on Thursday, January 23rd, at 5.30 p.m. Uniform optional.

DEPARTMENTAL ORDERS.
The words "and Friday" in the 4th line of paragraph (c) of D.O. No. 20 of page 22, which were deleted by Orders of 31st Oct., 1918, are to be re-inserted.

SUGGERS AND DRUMMERS.
Sergeant Drummer Wong Shau Nin resumes charge as from the 29th inst. 31st January, 1919.

YACHTING.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

The fifth of the series of Club Championship events was sailed off on Saturday last and resulted as follows:—

HANDICAP CLASS.

Course:	Yachting	Handicap	Finishing	Corrected
Course: Lyemun Beacon (P),				
Rock Buoy (P), Channel Rock (S.)				
Distance, 8½ miles.				
Yachts	Course	Time	Time	Time
	M.S.	H.M.S.	H.M.S.	H.M.S.
Dione	1.25	5.30.03	5.21.28	5.27.43
Jessica	1.25	5.27.40	5.21.28	5.27.43
Diana	1.25	5.27.40	5.21.28	5.27.43
Colleen	1.25	5.27.40	5.21.28	5.27.43
Dorothea	1.25	5.27.40	5.21.28	5.27.43

Position	Points for race	Points to date
(1) Dione	7	26
(2) Dione	4	25
(3) Dorothea	3	14
(4) Diana	3	20
— Jessica	—	—
— Colleen	—	—

ONE DESIGN CLASS.

Course:	Yachting	Handicap	Finishing	Corrected
Course: Lyemun Beacon (P),				
Rock (P.)				
Distance, 6.2 miles.				
Yachts	Course	Time	Time	Time
	M.S.	H.M.S.	H.M.S.	H.M.S.
Alisa	1.25	5.25.38	5.21.28	5.21.28
Bonita	1.25	5.25.38	5.21.28	5.21.28
Daphne	1.25	5.25.38	5.21.28	5.21.28
Hulcyon	1.25	5.25.38	5.21.28	5.21.28

Position	Points for race	Points to date
(1) Hulcyon	5	9
(2) Daphne	3	16
(3) Daphne	2	18
(4) Bonita	1	11

The race for the Heyward Hays and Guel Classes will have to be re-sailed at a later date, as the yachts finishing in this class exceeded the time limit—6 p.m.

GOLF.

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

LADIES SECTION.

Lady Roes Davies has kindly presented two cups for a one day competition at Fanning on the following conditions: Shanghai Foursome. Ladies to arrange their own partners. Opponents to be drawn. Medal play, 14 holes only omitting holes Nos. 10, 11, 12 and 13. The competition will take place on February 21st. Entries close on February 18th. Half of combined handicaps.

ALLEGED FALSE PRETENCES.

SALT SHARES THAT BROUGHT IN NO DIVIDEND.

At the Magistracy, yesterday, before Mr. C. D. Melbourne, a Chinese was charged with attempting to defraud four Chinese women of a sum of \$950.

The evidence was to the effect that, in August of last year, defendant went to the four women and held out to them the alluring prospect of becoming wealthy in a short time. Being simpletons, the women listened to his device for a short-cut to wealth which consisted in the purchasing of several shares in a salt mine which he had discovered in the country. The women fell into the trap immediately, bought the shares and waited expectantly for the large dividend which would bring them back their capital and much more. Their expectations not being realised, they informed the Police who arrested defendant.

Sergeant Holland, who made the arrest, asked for a remand which was granted.

U.S.A. IMPORTS.

Under instructions from Washington the American Consul-General is able to announce that hereafter consular invoices may be certified to without the production of import license numbers for admission of the United States of all commodities except the following:—Wheat, wheat flour, feathers, peanuts, ferro-manganese, spiegeleisen, Egyptian cotton, emery ore, jute and manufactures thereof, pig tin and tin ore and concentrates.

For items thus listed imported licences must still be secured and the import licence number must be indicated to the Consul-General in the usual way. The importation of all other commodities save those herein listed is now altogether unrestricted and free from all license requirements.

Under present regulations the approval of shipping orders by the U.S. Consul-General will no longer be required for any commodities except those in the above list. Shipping orders, however, must be approved by the United States Public Health Surgeon.

It is also indicated that, from time to time, items on the above list will be freed from all restrictions so that invoices covering shipments of such articles to the United States may be made without the production of import license numbers.

While the above list includes a number of items of importance to Hongkong, particularly tin, feathers, and peanuts, it should be understood that shipments of these goods are still to be licensed in the usual way while, on the other hand, all the vast mass of ordinary exports from Hongkong to the United States, particularly of Chinese merchandise, rice, and in short, the entire mass of the trade is hereafter free of license and completely without restriction.

HONGKONG TRAMWAY CO., LTD.

The approximate statement of traffic receipts for the week ending 18th January is as follows:—

	Receipts for week	Aggregate for 3 weeks
This Year	\$13,963	40,483
Last Year	12,375	35,883
Increase	1,588	4,600

NO JEWELLERY; NO WEDDING

CHINESE GIRL'S EXPERIENCES.

At the Magistracy, yesterday, before Mr. J. R. Wood, four Chinese, three men and a woman, were charged with detaining a young Chinese girl, fifteen years of age, without the consent of her parents. The first defendant was also charged with living with the girl.

Mr. F. X. d'Almeida appeared for the defendants.

Inspector Kent stated that on the morning of January 9th, the girl, under the pretext of attending school, visited first defendant who was an old acquaintance, and the owner of a cigarette stall in Cochrane Street. The latter had intimated his desire to make her his wife. It was arranged that the girl should elope with the first defendant, and arrangements were made with a vegetable hawk who was given some of the girl's clothing to keep. In the afternoon the girl kept the appointment and the defendant took her to the Public Gardens and then deserted her because she failed to bring her jewellery with her. The girl got into a ricksha and was proceeding to the Tai Ping Theatre to spend the night there. On the way she attempted to throw herself into the harbour and was prevented from doing so by the ricksha-puller. This man succeeded in persuading her to go to a house in Hollywood Road, where she again met the defendant. They went out for a walk and returned to the house at 3 a.m. and she was subsequently removed to a house in Landale Street, where defendant visited her on two occasions. The mother complained to the Police who raided the house and arrested the second defendant and the girl. The other defendants were traced by Sergeant Cooke. The girl stated that she was not allowed to go about anywhere when she was in defendant's house.

The case was remanded, bail being fixed for first and second defendants at \$2,000 each, and the third and fourth at \$500 and \$100 respectively.

MONEY FOR A PARTNERSHIP

CHINESE STEALS TO BUY AN INTEREST IN A FISH-STALL.

At the Magistracy, yesterday, before Mr. C. D. Melbourne, a Chinese was charged with stealing \$500 from a firm in Mercer Street.

Inspector Browne stated that defendant, who was employed in a silk merchant's shop, received \$500 and put it into a drawer. Later in the evening the manager asked him for the money and he said he had sent it to his wife and children as they were starving in the country owing to the prevalence of floods. It was, however, discovered that the man had paid \$400 to a salt fish shop, to be made a partner.

Complaints stated that he was willing to accept \$450, but defendant replied that he had only \$400, and asked the Court to have mercy as he had a wife and children.

Inspector Browne remarked that the man did not deserve any sympathy at all.

Mr. Melbourne ordered the return of the \$400 and fined defendant \$150, with the alternative of six weeks' hard labour.

ALLEGED KIDNAPPING.

CHILD MISSED DURING FUNERAL CEREMONIES.

At the Magistracy, yesterday, before Mr. C. D. Melbourne, a Chinese was charged with kidnapping a child from the custody of its parent.

Inspector Browne stated that on Jan. 18th, the child's father died and, on the 19th, while arrangements were being made for the funeral, defendant visited the house. The child asked him for sweets and he took it out with the intention of buying some sweets. He, however, did not return with the child, but made his appearance the next day as if nothing had occurred. When charged with stealing the child, he denied it, but a raid was made at his house and the child found. It appears that defendant informed the landlord that the child was his brother and had been sent from the country owing to robbers.

Defendant, who stated that the child followed him, was remanded in custody.

ARMED ROBBERY AT BONHAM STRAND.

\$5,000 BAIL ALLOWED.

At the Magistracy, yesterday, before Mr. C. D. Melbourne, a Chinese was charged with being concerned in an armed robbery at Bonham Strand, and with damaging a policeman's whistle.

The facts of the case were to the effect that defendant committed an armed robbery and was walking off when an Indian constable attempted to stop him. The robber, however, ran some distance, and then, swerving round, fired point-blank at the constable. Fortunately the shot went astray and the Indian constable grasped him by his wrist.

Mr. P. W. Goldring appeared for defendant and asked for a remand, which was granted, bail being fixed at \$5,000.

LITTLE "INCORRIGIBLES."

At the Magistracy, yesterday, before Mr. C. D. Melbourne, two little Chinese boys not taller than the dock in which they were placed, were charged with gambling in the streets.

Inspector Browne described the boys as "incorrigibles." When he arrested them they had 97 cents in their possession. He was under the impression that the boys had stolen the money.

Mr. Melbourne sentenced each defendant to receive five strokes with the birch.

HONGKONG BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

MR. H. W. LOOKER'S APPEAL TO COMMERCIAL INTERESTS. A PLEA FOR GREATER SUPPORT.

The twenty-ninth annual meeting of the Hongkong Benevolent Society was held at the City Hall yesterday, Mr. H. W. Looker presiding. The attendance of the general public was not very encouraging, and it is to be hoped that, after the appeal made by the chairman yesterday, the public generally will show more interest in the activities of the Society. The Society is doing work of great value and it is expected that, in the future, there will be an increase in the number of calls upon its resources.

Mr. Looker said that he greatly appreciated the fact that he had been asked by the Committee of the Society to preside at the meeting. As they doubtless knew, he was shortly leaving the Colony. He wished he could say that he had taken a greater tangible interest in the Society than he really had, for he was well aware of the nature of the work being done. In looking over the report and accounts to be put before the meeting he noticed that the number of members and donors had not increased. He also noticed that the names of a large number of notable people were absent from the subscription list, and he could not help thinking that, in the midst of other activities, the needs of the Society had escaped attention. He asked that this state of affairs should be remedied, and he drew the attention of the general public, particularly the larger business interests which had always been so active in promoting welfare and protecting the interests of the Colony, and which had shown particular activity in that direction of late, to the fact that the work being done by the Society needed and deserved their recognition and help. The Society should be warmly supported by all those who had the interests of the Colony at heart, and especially by the commercial interests which formed, or told you they formed, the backbone of the place. If any one in the Colony had any doubts as to the nature of the value of the work being carried out by the Society, he could do no better than draw their attention to that part of the Society's accounts earmarked "Refunds." This item, he thought, was an amazing testimonial of the value of the Society's activities. The item represented those sums which had been returned to the Society by those persons who, when in need of help had been aided by the Society, but who, as soon as they found themselves sufficiently in funds to return that aid, had done so. The "refunds" this year had amounted to considerably more than last year, and this, he thought, was a very welcome sign. The Society, he said, would have larger claims than ever on its funds owing to the conclusion of the war. During the war the claims had not been so numerous as they would otherwise have been, because there had been fewer refugees owing to shipping difficulties. Now the shipping situation was getting easier, the President announced that there would be a large influx of refugees of all descriptions in the Colony in the coming year or in the next two years, and, therefore, the Society would need more help than ever. He did not think that the general public ever seriously thought of the nature of the work being done by the Society, of its enormous range, and the extreme care which was expended upon it. If they did, they would realise that the efforts of the Society were unwearied. It was extremely hard and thankless work, and they were really in need of support. Any one who reflected on the matter could not but realise that the labours of the Society were extraordinarily well carried out. A good many people did not know that all the work was being done by a few ladies, whom they met socially, and knew very well, but yet did not know that their charitable work achieved such astonishing results. In rendering of the relief afforded by the Society, they would see that most relief was given to women and children. At a matter of fact, such help was a large item in the work of the Society—the attending to the needs of the women and children stranded here and, but for the Society, abandoned. These poor people had to proceed somewhere either to their homes, or to friends, and, very often, besides finding them the means of going away, the Society fed, clothed and lodged them. He did not know what such people would do without aid from the Society; there was only one

alternative that he knew of and that was the House of Detention. Such help was particularly needed in the case of Englishwomen married to Chinese. Almost inevitably when an Englishwoman was married to a Chinese and she went into the country, she came back to Hongkong with a large family, in want, and disillusioned, and with only the Society to look to.

Mr. Looker also drew attention to the cosmopolitan nature of the Society's efforts there were no limits to those who were helped. The report would show them that Serbians, Singalese, French and a number of other nationalities had received assistance. He thought that it would be only right if the Consular body, either individually or collectively, were officially to recognise the existence of the Society by making regular contributions to its funds. He commended this idea to the Consular body in Hongkong and hoped that they would give it their best consideration. Another point he wished to draw attention to was the fact that the Society was always grateful to receive donations of clothing. Most of them knew that a bureau had been established in the City Hall at which one of the members of the Society attended twice a week to receive and distribute. He had been told that the calls on the Society in regard to clothing were very great, and they could never have enough. He hoped that those present would take the opportunity, as soon as possible, of doing what they could to send a few pieces of old clothes to the bureau. There was no reason for them to be chary about what they sent, for it was all fish that came into the Society's net, and there was very little indeed that could not be used by the Society. He was quite sure that, with a little searching, all present would be able to find a few things which could be sent. It had to be remembered that the Society, in addition to its other activities, took charge of the education of a number of children. Actually they were educating 29 children, and he had no doubt that the immediate future would see this number increasing. This was a part of the Society's work that must appeal to them. Some of the children were of white origin, who otherwise would have no education whatever. Now was the time of war bond drawings, race lotteries, war profits and profits on the Bialto. They were all in the full tide of rejoicing and thankfulness that the war had concluded. Some of them were reputed to be better off than they were before, and if tangible expenditure was to be considered, there could be no doubt it. The Society wanted tangible subscriptions to help people without means and without clothes. Referring to the death of the Rev. J. H. France, Mr. Looker pointed out that the widow had been left without means. He had known Mr. France personally and knew something of the very hard work which he had put in on account of the Society. He had been invaluable in making enquiries about cases in which the Society wanted to help, and the Society owed him a great debt of gratitude. Owing to the rules of the Society they were unable to make a donation to the Fund which had been started, but, on behalf of the Society, he desired to commend the Fund to the residents of the Colony who had not already subscribed to it, and he was sure that the appeal would not fall on deaf ears. He proposed the adoption of the report and the statement of accounts. Commander C. W. Beckwith seconded. He said that he endorsed, with great pleasure, the remarks which had been made on the general working of the Society. He had the honour of being associated with the Benevolent Society in his official capacity as Harbour Master, and he thought that the Society was a positive blessing. He did not know how much should be done with refugees if not for the Society. When the case of a refugee was brought to the notice of the Society, if urgent, it was attended to immediately; if not, the refugee was fed, clothed and cared for till it was possible to repatriate him. All this meant a great deal of hard work. It was not exactly pleasant on a hot day to go to the top of a Chinese tenement to investigate a case of distress, but this he had been told, the ladies of the Society often had to do. All these things were not written in the report, but they nevertheless constituted the activities of the Society. He proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to the Committee of ladies for the work they had put in during the past year. The Chairman proposed that the office bearers of the Society for the ensuing year be as follows:— President.—Mrs. H. E. Pollock. Vice-President.—Lady Ross Davies. Hon. Treasurer.—Mrs. Montagu Harrison. Hon. Secretary.—Mrs. L. A. Knight. Hon. Asst. Secretary.—Miss Wilkinson. Committee.—Mrs. Jordan, Mrs. Chatham, Mrs. Forsyth, Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Pattenden, Mrs. Wolfe, Mrs. Lang, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Cameron, Mrs. Matheson and Mrs. Keeling Brown. Dr. Saunders, in recommending, supported the tribute paid by Commander Beckwith to the ladies for their work last year. (Continued at foot of next column.)

COMPANY MEETINGS.

ANNUAL REPORTS TO BE SUBMITTED.

The annual general meetings of the West Point Building Company, Ltd., the Hongkong Central Estate, Ltd., the Hongkong Land Investment and Agency, Ltd., and the Hongkong Land Reclamation Company Ltd., will be held on January 29th at the offices of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. The following reports are being submitted.

WEST POINT BUILDING CO., LTD.
The net profits for the year amount to \$71,167.90 which with \$3,698.74, the amount brought forward from the previous year, makes an amount available for division of \$74,866.64. From this amount an interim dividend of \$3.00 per share has already been paid, and it is now proposed to pay a final dividend of \$2.80 per share making a total dividend for the twelve months of \$5.80 per share, and to carry forward the balance \$2,386.04 to the credit of a new Profit and Loss Account.

HONGKONG CENTRAL ESTATE, LTD.
The net profits for the period amount to \$98,860.78 which with \$26,947.14 brought forward from last account makes an amount available for division of \$124,907.92.

It is now proposed to pay a dividend of \$8.00 per share absorbing \$80,000.00 and to carry forward the balance \$44,907.92 to the credit of a new Profit and Loss Account.

HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY CO., LTD.

The net profits for the period amount to \$461,737.88 which with \$28,189.59 brought forward from last account makes an amount available for division of \$489,947.48. From this amount an interim dividend of \$3.50 per share has already been paid.

It is now proposed to pay a final dividend of \$3.50 per share and after writing off Managing Directors' fees and a bonus to office staff there remains a balance of \$104,505.91 to be carried to the credit of a new Profit and Loss Account.

HONGKONG LAND RECLAMATION CO., LTD.

The net profits of the year amount to \$60,752.65 which with \$683,206.54 brought forward from last account makes an amount available for division of \$883,959.22. It is now proposed to pay a dividend of 7 per cent. on the paid up capital, after providing for which there remains a balance of \$818,334.22 to be carried to the credit of a new Profit and Loss Account.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The Society was founded in 1889 and the number of cases on our books has now reached 1506. During the year 31 new cases have been entered. With two exceptions, all have received help in some form. Careful enquiries were made as to the circumstances of the two not helped and it was found they were not really in need; 10 of the new applicants for help were women, 7 of them having small children. In almost every case some substantial help has been given. The most helped were of many nationalities, English, Dutch, Singalese, Serbian, Norwegian, Swedish and Russian. In some cases only clothing was given; in others, board and lodging were provided at the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, while others were helped to get employment. Four children have been placed at one or other of the schools during the past year, bringing the number, which the Society is responsible for, up to 29. One of these children died at the Italian Convent and the Society helped to pay the funeral expenses. The Secretary or Assistant Secretary attends at the City Hall on Mondays and Thursdays to interview applicants for help. Gifts of clothing and boots for men, women, and children, be grateful to be grateful at these times. Many gifts of clothing and boots have been received during the past year, and the Committee wish to express their grateful thanks to those who have so kindly sent them. The thanks of the Committee are also due to subscribers and donors to the Society, to Mr. H. C. Sandford, for kindly auditing the account, to the Rev. W. T. Featherstone, for his assistance, and to Commander Beckwith, for his ever-ready assistance and advice. We wish to gratefully acknowledge the annual grant of \$600 from the Colonial Government. During the year 1918 the following ladies have served on the Committee—Messdames Pollock, Wolfe, Harston, Chatham, Forsyth, Pattenden, Carlston, Shellin, Fotherstone, McKenny, Lang, Kraft, Cameron and Knight, Lady Ross Davies, Miss Inners and Miss Wilkinson. In conclusion, the Committee desire to express their deep regret at the news of the death of the Rev. J. H. France, who, for so many years, served on the Reference Committee of this Society, and who, by his advice and sympathy, and ever ready help, did invaluable work in furthering the relief of distress. A fund has been recently started in this Colony for the widow and children of Mr. France, and the Committee, whilst regretting that the rules of the Society do not allow them to vote a contribution to that fund, desire to very earnestly commend it to the residents of Hongkong.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

THE PROPOSED POULTRY MARKET.

The fortnightly meeting of the local Sanitary Board was held yesterday, Mr. A. Gibson (President) occupied the chair and the others present were the Hon. E. R. Hallifax, Lieut. Col. Crisp, Messrs. C. G. Alabaster, F. B. L. Bowley, Chan Kai-ming, S. W. Tao, Mrs. A. D. Hickling (M.O.H.) and Mrs. D. Danby (Secretary). Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, pursuant to notice, asked:—

"With reference to His Excellency's remarks at the Legislative Council on 17th October last, which were reported as follows:—'If you want a poultry market you can have it at once.'—Will the Head of the Sanitary Department inform the Board what steps have been, or are being taken to provide a wholesale poultry market? And will the Head of the Sanitary Department submit to the Board any plans (whether complete or no) which have been prepared with reference to such market?"

The CHAIRMAN replied: Shortly after the meeting of the Legislative Council referred to H.E. the Officer Administering the Government and the unofficial members visited the site proposed for a wholesale poultry market. The general impression was that the site was unsuitable, and the opinion was expressed by one member that it would be to the benefit of the poorer classes if the wholesale business was abolished. It was agreed that the parties interested should be allowed experimentally to occupy the proposed site, erecting temporary buildings on their own account, and they were informed accordingly. They have taken no steps in the matter. In the opinion of the Government the proper place for a poultry depot is at Kennedy Town, in the cattle depot. A site there has been offered to, and has been refused by, the dealers. The Police have been instructed strictly to enforce the law in regard to street obstruction in the neighbourhood of Ko Shing Street.

Mr. BOWLEY: I understand that the whole matter has been shelved.

The CHAIRMAN: The place has been offered to the poultry-dealers who have taken no steps whatever to get into possession or use it in any way.

Mr. Tao remarked that he understood that the poultry-dealers were taking certain steps in the matter. The site offered them by the Government was considered too small; they, therefore, did not want to use it. He asked whether the Board had received the plans from the Government, so that the members might see what was granted to the poultry-dealers.

The CHAIRMAN replied that they could hardly discuss the answer to the question. If there was to be any further discussion, they should move a formal resolution.

Mr. ALABASTER rose to a point of order. He wished to draw the attention of the Board to the fact that the last part of the question had not been answered at all. It was with regard to whether the Head of the Sanitary Department would submit to the Board any plans, whether complete or no, which had been prepared with reference to such a market.

The CHAIRMAN replied that the Government had offered that place of ground to the poultry-dealers under certain conditions. The conditions had not been accepted by the poultry-dealers on the ground stated by Mr. Tao—that there was not sufficient room for the business. With regard to the preparation of a plan, he did not know whether it was ready or not. A plan was being prepared.

Mr. BOWLEY wished to know what the conditions were.

The CHAIRMAN replied that it would be better to propose a formal resolution. The matter then dropped.

Subsequently Mr. ALABASTER said: I wish to give notice of a question I will ask at the next meeting. In order to enable the Board to consider the reasonableness, or otherwise, of the attitude taken up by poultry-dealers, I will ask the President to obtain, and to lay before the Board, any plan which may have been prepared with reference to the proposed poultry market.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that it would be simpler to move it as a resolution. Mr. ALABASTER replied that if the answer was in the affirmative it could be discussed. He wished an answer laid upon the table to the second part of Mr. Bowley's question.

CORRESPONDENCE.

WAR CHARITIES.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—Pursuant to my undertaking to pay over to War Charities all refunds of the special War Tax made by my tenants, please be so kind as to accord me space in your columns for acknowledgment of the following in respect of the third and fourth quarters of 1918:—
The tenant of No. 12, Peak \$ 83.00
Rung Tung, Fos firm 63.80
Mr. A. B. Raworth 63.80
Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. 87.40
Comptroller staff quarters 40.25
Toyau Kwi firm 25.25
Mr. J. H. Ruttonjee 21.00
Mr. W. Fooks 21.00
\$339.50

I would like to add that a cheque for the above total amount of \$339.50 has been forwarded to the Hon. Mr. E. R. Hallifax, Hon. Secretary of the War Charities Fund, for disposal as the War Charities Committee may determine.—Yours faithfully,

ROBERT HO TUNG,
By his attorney,
Ho Wing.
Hongkong, January 21st, 1919.

LANE, CRAWFORD

AND COMPANY.

VICHY-CELESTINS

This Spring is the property of the French Republic,

under whose supervision the Vichy establishment is conducted

and the waters are bottled.

The VICHY-CELESTINS owes its high reputation to

the results produced by its use in cases of Liver Congestion,

Diabetes, Gastritis, etc. Its is also Valuable to the Gouty and

Dyspeptic.

Sold at—

\$7 per dozen quart bottles.

\$28 per case of 50 quarts.

Single bottles can be had 60 cents each.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

VICTORIA THEATRE.

January 22nd,

9.15 p.m. Performance.

AMERICAN GAZETTE NO. 21.

MARBLE HEART

featuring

KING BAGGAT.

HOGAN OUT WEST. KEYSTONE COMEDY.

Matinees

every

Wednesday and Thursday, 5.15 p.m.

Saturday, 2.15 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Sunday, 6 p.m.

BOOKING AT ANDERSON'S.

THE STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE AND RELIABILITY

HOWE SCALES

LARGE VARIETY OF VARIOUS TYPES IN STOCK.

MUSTARD & CO.,

4, DES VOUX ROAD CENTRAL.

TELEPHONE 1188.

AGENTS IN FOCHOW, AMOY, SWATOW and CANTON.

BRITISH-AMERICAN TOBACCO CO.

Powell Ltd.

TELEPHONE 346

JUST RECEIVED

STANDARD, FINE AND SUPERFINE.



TARANTULLE
for Dainty Home Sewn
Lingerie and Baby Wear

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

G. R.
IMPORTS AND EXPORTS DEPARTMENT.
CHINESE NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

THIS DEPARTMENT will be entirely closed on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST. It will be open for Imports and Exports Permits only till noon on SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND and for permits of all kinds till 1 P.M. on MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD.
W. W. THAMMAN,
Superintendent,
Imports and Exports.
Hongkong, January 21st, 1919. [241]

WANTED

WANTED by Britisher. FURNISHED BACHELOR QUARTERS, Central Locality or Lower Levels of Peak.
Reply—
Care of "Daily Press" Office. [242]

THE KOWLOON LAND AND BUILDING COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the THIRTIETH ORDINARY MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS in this Company will be held at the Company's Office, Victoria Building on TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4th, 1919 at 11 o'clock A.M. for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors, together with the Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1918.

The REGISTER of SHARES of the Company will be CLOSED from TUESDAY, JANUARY 22nd, to WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23rd, 1919, (both days inclusive), during which period no Transfer of Shares can be registered.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
A. SHELTON HOOPER,
Secretary,
To The Hongkong Land Investment & Agency Co., Ltd.,
General Agents for the
West Point Building Co., Ltd.,
Hongkong, January 21st, 1919. [243]

WISEMAN'S DINNER DANCE

ON

FRIDAY, January 24th.

DINNER... .. \$1.00

DANCE... .. \$1.00

FULL STRING ORCHESTRA.

D. M. GOODALL,
MANAGER. [106]

AMERICAN & MANCHURIAN LINE.
(Ellerman & Bucknall S.S. Co. Ltd.)

THE Steamship

"BLOEMFONTEIN"
will be despatched for
NEW YORK via PANAMA CANAL
about the Middle of February.

For freight and further particulars apply to—
THE BANK LINE, LTD.,
General Agents. [244]

"GLEN" LINE OF STEAMERS, LTD.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.
FROM UNITED KINGDOM, COLOMBO AND STRAITS.

THE Steamship

"GLENIFFER"
having arrived from the above ports, Consignees of Cargo by her are hereby informed that all Goods are being landed at their risk into the hazardous and/or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, whence, and/or from the wharves, delivery may be obtained.

Goods not cleared by the Jan. 28th, at 5 P.M., will be subject to re-warehousing. All broken, or ailed and damaged packages are to be left in the Godowns where they will be examined by Messrs. Goddard & Douglas, on Jan. 28th, 1919, at 10 A.M. Claims against the Steamer must be presented within 30 days of arrival, otherwise they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance will be effected by us in any case whatever.
Bills of Lading will be countersigned by JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd., Agents.
Hongkong, January 21st, 1919. [245]

WANTED.

PART-TIME Employment wanted by Army Officer—Twenty Years business experience—good Organizer and Office Manager.
Reply to—
Box No. 287,
Care of "Daily Press" Office. [237]

WANTED.

STENOGRAPHER for Indo China.
Apply—
Box No. 328,
Care of "Daily Press" Office. [238]

WANTED.

CHINESE CLERKS, with a knowledge of Typewriting, for Batak Pappan, Borneo.
Apply—
Box No. 219,
Care of "Daily Press" Office. [239]

INTIMATIONS

THE WEST POINT BUILDING COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the THIRTY-FIRST ORDINARY MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS in this Company will be held at the Office of Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & COMPANY, LIMITED, on WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23rd, 1919, at 11.30 A.M., for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors together with the Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1918.

The REGISTER of SHARES of the Company will be CLOSED from SATURDAY, JANUARY 19th, to WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23rd, 1919, (both days inclusive), during which period no Transfer of Shares can be registered.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
A. SHELTON HOOPER,
The Hongkong Land Investment & Agency Co., Ltd.,
General Agents for the
West Point Building Co., Ltd.,
Hongkong, January 19th, 1919. [205]

THE HONGKONG CENTRAL ESTATE, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the FIFTH ORDINARY MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS in this Company will be held at the Office of Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & COMPANY, LIMITED, on WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23rd, 1919, at 11.45 A.M., for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors together with the Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1918.

The REGISTER of SHARES of the Company will be CLOSED from SATURDAY, JANUARY 19th, to WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23rd, 1919, (both days inclusive), during which period no Transfer of Shares can be registered.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
A. SHELTON HOOPER,
The Hongkong Central Estate, Ltd.,
Secretary to the General Managers.
Hongkong, January 19th, 1919. [206]

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY CO., LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the THIRTY-FIRST ORDINARY MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS in this Company will be held at the Office of Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & COMPANY, LIMITED, on WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23rd, 1919, at noon, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors together with the Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1918.

The REGISTER of SHARES of the Company will be CLOSED from SATURDAY, JANUARY 19th, to WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23rd, 1919, (both days inclusive), during which period no Transfer of Shares can be registered.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
A. SHELTON HOOPER,
Secretary.
Hongkong, January 19th, 1919. [207]

THE HONGKONG LAND RECLAMATION CO., LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the EIGHTH ORDINARY MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS in this Company will be held at the Office of Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & COMPANY, LIMITED, on WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23rd, 1919, at 12.15 P.M., for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors together with the Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1918.

The REGISTER of SHARES of the Company will be CLOSED from SATURDAY, JANUARY 19th, to WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23rd, 1919, (both days inclusive), during which period no Transfer of Shares can be registered.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
MOWBRAY S. NORTHCOTE,
Secretary.
Hongkong, January 19th, 1919. [208]

UNION WATERBOAT COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS will be held in the Office of Messrs. DODWELL & Co., LIMITED, on THURSDAY, JANUARY 30th, 1919, at 11.30 A.M. for the purpose of receiving the Report of the General Managers together with a statement of accounts to 31st December, 1918.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 23rd to 30th January, 1919, both days inclusive.
DODWELL & Co., Ltd.,
General Managers. [235]

HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LTD.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE NINETEENTH ORDINARY MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS in the Company will be held at the Office of the Company, Hotel Mansions, on TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11th, 1919, at 12 o'clock, Noon, for the purpose of receiving a Report of the Directors, together with a Statement of Accounts, declaring a Dividend and closing Directors and Auditors' Books.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from JANUARY 27th to FEBRUARY 11th, 1919, both days inclusive.
By Order of the Board of Directors,
W. E. CLARKE,
Secretary.
Hongkong, January 7th, 1919. [173]

WANTED.

ENGINEER for local works. Thorough shop training in mechanical engineering and experience in charge of steam plant essential.

Apply—
"TECHNIO"
Care of "Daily Press" Office. [236]

INTIMATIONS

THEATRE ROYAL.

THE
HOWITT-PHILLIPS

COMEDY COMPANY.

TO-NIGHT

"THE GLAD EYE."

Prices: \$3, \$2 and \$1.

Booking at MOUTRIE'S.

NOTICE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the INTEREST and Responsibility of GEORGE BANKER of and in the Import and Export Business carried on at Hongkong under the style or Firm name of "BANKER and COMPANY" ceased on from the 1st January, 1919, from which date the Business will be carried on by SAMUEL EBENEZER GREEN.

Dated the 20th January, 1919.
GEO. BANKER,
S. E. GREEN [232]

NOTICE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that THOMAS PERCIVAL LINDSAY WOODS is authorized to Sign our Firm per procuratione.

Dated the 20th January, 1919.
BANKER & CO. [233]

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Underigned have received instructions from Messrs. D. MACDONALD & Co., to sell by Public Auction, TO-MORROW (THURSDAY),

JANUARY 23rd, 1919, at 10.30 A.M., at their premises Hongkong, SUNDRY MACHINERY, &c., &c.

Comprising:—
One "Greens" Emergency Cupola, two Admiralty Pattern air Pumps, Diving Dresses, Air Hose, Crucible Wire Cuts, new double Geared Winch, Vertical Steam Engine, Piles, Rivets, Washers, Brass Hinges, Bolts, and Copper Piping, Galvanized Bolts, and Hooks, Drums of Chloride of Calcium, Kegs of Mangon Powder, Rubber and Packing, &c., &c.
Also
One (new) Bolinder Crude Oil Engine and Dynamo, as illustrated on page 25 of Bolinder's Catalogue.

And
Taskwood Motor Boat, Length 22 feet, Beam 5-9, depth 2-1, fitted with 16-50 R.H.P. Heavy Duty Kelvin Kerosene Motor (in good running order).

Further Particulars may be obtained from the Underigned Catalogue will be issued. Terms—Cash.

HUGHES & HOUGH,
Auctioneers.
Hongkong, January 18th, 1919. [236]

A. G. DA ROCHA.

AUCTIONEER, SURVEYOR AND GENERAL BROKER.

FAVOURD with instructions from The Concerned, will sell by Public Auction on FRIDAY, JANUARY 24th, 1919, at 2.30 P.M., at his Sales Room, Queen's Road Central, EXCELLENT HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE.

Comprising:—Chesterfield Couch and Armchairs, Blackwood Furniture, Brass and Iron Bedsteads, Tables, Brackets, Carpets and Rugs, Brass Fenders, Overmantels, Silk Tapestry Covered Drawing Room Suite, Sofas, Easy Chairs, Occasional Tables, Extension Dining Table, Breville Mirror Wardrobe, Hat Stands, Dining Chairs, Silver Ware Cabinet, Book Case, Dinner Crockery, Glassware, Ornaments, Pictures, Curtains, Bed Sheets, Cloths, Marble Top Washstands, Cooking Stoves, Cutlery, Toilet Sets, Electric Heating Lamps, Cabinets, Sideboards and a long line of Sundries.

Terms—Cash on Delivery.
Hongkong, January 18th, 1919. [156]

YOU WANT

to complete collection of Macau Stamps present issue.

WE HAVE

Just received from Lisbon 8 cent and 16 cent

STAMPS

GRACA & CO.,

Dealers in Postage Stamps, Post Cards, Seeds, Toys, etc.

No. 10, WYNDHAM STREET, HONGKONG.
P.O. Box 930. [73]

INTIMATION

WATSON'S

EXTRACT OF MALT

AND

COD LIVER OIL.

A CONCENTRATED NUTRITIVE

AND

DIGESTIVE AGENT.

Easy to Digest.

Pleasant to take

In bottles \$1.50 and \$2.50

each.

SOLD ONLY BY

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.,

HONGKONG DISPENSARY,

TEL. 16.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 104, DES VOGES ROAD, C. LONDON OFFICE: 121, FLEET STREET, E.C.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, JANUARY 22ND, 1919.

THE PRESS AND THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

PRESIDENT WILSON probably did not fully appreciate the tremendous power of conservative opinion in European diplomatic and official circles when he expressed his desire that the Peace Conference should be open to the Press. Now, surrounded by all the time-worn formalities demanded by international etiquette and weighted down by the pressure of tradition, he is yielding, and the thousand newspaper representatives in Paris, who were to have been the instruments for destroying "secret diplomacy" once and for all are likely to become, unless their protests have effect, little better than the channels through which the carefully censored official communiqués will be distributed.

The world has changed during the past four years, and many of our old ideas of government responsibility have been profoundly modified. The people are clamouring more loudly for the recognition of their right to control their own affairs, and they certainly are no longer satisfied that their vital interests should be involved in secret treaties or even discussed by their own representatives behind closed doors. It was natural that President Wilson's proposed innovation should have met with opposition. It is easy to imagine that Ministers and their Secretaries were horrified at the suggestion, and it would not be difficult for them to show, to their own satisfaction at any rate, that all negotiations would be impossible in such unheard-of circumstances.

The attitude is the logical outcome of their training and the forces which they were able to bring to bear have caused the President of the United States to swerve a little from that determination to secure free and open discussion of all problems which his instinct showed him was the right course to pursue. The danger is pointed out of raising national and international controversy by premature publicity and it is emphasized that such publicity would protract a period.

When Mr. P. C. Potts' motor-car was being carried across the harbour on a lighter on Monday morning, it fell into the sea near the Praya. The driver, who was seated in the car, managed to extricate himself and escaped with a good working and a few bruises. The car was pulled out a couple of hours later.

The Canton correspondent of the *Chung Ngai Sun Po* writes that a message has been received from Swatow stating that a fire broke out there on the 19th inst., which burned for several hours and destroyed 100 buildings in the busy part of the City, including that of the Mitan Bazaar. Telegraphic communication with Swatow was interrupted for a period.

At St. John's Cathedral yesterday, Mr. William Henry Matthews, of the Naval Yard Police was married to Miss Eveline May Wimble, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Wimble, by the Rev. F. G. B. Hastings, R.N. The bride wore a gown of ivory tulle, with over-tunic of georgette and old Flemish lace embroidered in pearls and silver, and a tulle veil. Acting as bridesmaids were the Misses D. Evans, F. Rodney and little Miss B. Budden, prettily dressed in pink crepe de chine, embroidered and trimmed with fur, with black straw and pink georgette hats. Mr. G. Rens acted as bestman.

The two recent Cabaret Dances on the Murray Parade Ground yielded profit of \$227.03 which sum has been handed over to the Heather Day Fund of the Hongkong St. Andrew's Society. The dance committee wish to thank Commodore and Officers H.M.S. for loan of flags, etc.; Major Morgan and Officers of 18th Infantry for the services of the band at reduced rates; Mr. D. Keith, Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., for services rendered in connection with the floor; the local newspapers for advertising at reduced rates; Messrs. C. E. Warren & Co.; Messrs. S. Moutrie & Co., Ltd.; Mr. D. M. Goodall; Sgt. Major Hurle; and the gentlemen who kindly donated as prizes War Bond Tickets to the value of \$80.

At St. John's Cathedral yesterday, Mr.

William Henry Matthews, of the Naval Yard Police was married to Miss Eveline May Wimble, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Wimble, by the Rev. F. G. B. Hastings, R.N. The bride wore a gown of ivory tulle, with over-tunic of georgette and old Flemish lace embroidered in pearls and silver, and a tulle veil. Acting as bridesmaids were the Misses D. Evans, F. Rodney and little Miss B. Budden, prettily dressed in pink crepe de chine, embroidered and trimmed with fur, with black straw and pink georgette hats. Mr. G. Rens acted as bestman.

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FAR EASTERN CABLE NEWS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

THE BANK LIQUIDATIONS IN SHANGHAI.

PEKING, January 20th.
The Government has intimated to the Legations that it protests against the judgment rendered by the Mixed Court, favouring Mr. E. Passeri, contending that the Liquidation Bureau being a Government organ does not fall within the jurisdiction of any Court unless specially delegated for this purpose by the Government.

Instructions have been issued by the Commissioner of Foreign Affairs at Shanghai to quash the proceedings.

The case in the Mixed Court, it will be remembered, concerned the remuneration of Mr. Passeri as liquidator of the Deutsch-Anstaltische Bank. The Court found Mr. Passeri entitled to four per cent. on all assets collected or brought to credit and \$50,000 as compensation for his work as liquidator on the cases which had been brought before the Court. The Bureau of Liquidation entered an application for leave to appeal against the decision which was granted by Magistrate Yui and refused by Mr. G. Ros, Italian Assessor.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO"]

CHINA'S PEACE CONFERENCE.

It has been decided that the internal Peace Conference will be opened in Nanking, but the agreement is to be signed in Shanghai.

THE SINO-JAPANESE AGREEMENT.

Peking journalists have sent an appeal to the European Peace Conference requesting the cancellation of the Sino-Japanese agreement of 1915, which China was forced to sign.

HONGKONG MRN ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

35 TO RETURN FROM KIRKEE.

Notification has been received at Military Headquarters, Hongkong, from Army Headquarters in India that, under War Office instructions, arrangements are being made to return to Hongkong as soon as possible 35 men who were enlisted under the Local Military Service Ordinance and drafted to Kirkee. They will be demobilized, not discharged, and eventually be given Army Form Z.21.

THE THEATRE ROYAL.

"WITHIN THE LAW."

The Howitt-Phillips Company staged the American crook play "Within the Law" at the Theatre Royal last evening. There was a large house and most people seemed pleased with the presentation. The amusing feature of it was the American slang "served up" by Miss Olive Stevens. The emotional episodes seemed somehow to lack impressiveness, but this was perhaps due more to the unreality of the play as a whole than to any defect on the part of those taking part in it. There was plenty of sobbing on the stage but none, as far as one could judge, in the dress circle, although, as a general rule, Hongkong audiences are by no means unimpassioned. The leading role is that of Mary Turner, a saleswoman who is sentenced to three years' imprisonment for a theft she never committed. When she regains her freedom, she marries her former employer's son out of spite and then, woman-like, falls in love with him, and so loses her chance of the revenge for which she had schemed. To-night the Company will stage "The Glad Eye."

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WAR:

"EX-KAISER IS ANSWERABLE IN HIS OWN PERSON."

GERMANS' PLANNING PEACEFUL PENETRATION:

AWAITING IMPROVEMENT OF SHIPPING CONDITIONS.

EX-KING MANUEL PROCLAIMED KING OF PORTUGAL.

FRANCE'S "NIGHTMARE OF INVASION."

LATEST CABLES.
[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

THE PEACE CONFERENCE

THE EX-KAISER'S RESPONSIBILITY

PARIS, January 20th.

In an official bulletin the Conference publishes a report upon the ex-Kaiser's responsibility for the war by jurists mentioned yesterday, namely, M. Larnaudie, the *Doyen* of the Faculty of Law and M. De La Pradelle, Professor of International Law at the Paris University.

The report which has been presented to the Peace Conference, concludes as follows:—

"The ex-Kaiser is answerable in his own person, both in penal and civil law, for the war and the crimes committed by the armed forces under his command."

"The ex-Kaiser's position is similar to that of the Directors of a public company, who can be punished by criminal law, while the position of the German nation is similar to that of the shareholders who cannot."

"The ex-Kaiser cannot escape the responsibility because the German constitution gives him alone the power of decision. The German sovereign depends solely upon God and his sword."

"The ex-Kaiser, in his speeches, frequently expressed this view of his authority, and, according to the Constitution, the ex-Kaiser declares war in the name of the Confederacy, of which Prussia is the dominant partner, and the ex-Kaiser was the King of Prussia."

"Moreover, as the Supreme War Lord, the ex-Kaiser possessed unlimited authority over the Army and Navy, and the German authorities quoted, as emphasising the ex-Kaiser's absolute liberty of decision, a letter showing that the ex-Kaiser desired and ordered the ferocious methods of warfare."

"The ex-Kaiser, in the early days of the war, wrote to Emperor Francis Joseph: 'Everything must put to the fire and sword. Men, women, children, and old men must be slaughtered, not a house or tree be left standing. With these methods of terrorism, which alone are capable of affecting a people as degenerate as the French, the war will be over in two months.'"

The report concludes:—"Thus the ex-Kaiser incurred personal penal responsibility to which must be added the civil responsibility of the German Empire. Both are responsible; the Empire at civil law, and the ex-Kaiser at penal and civil law, according to the most elementary rules of right."

Finally, the jurists state:—"The Prince guilty of an unjust war is liable to personal penalties if such are necessary for the sake of example, for the security of the injured party, and for the security of human society."

THE GERMAN REPRESENTATIVES.

LONDON, January 20th.

The *Times* correspondent at Bern, telegraphing on January 18th, stated that Count von Rantzau and Herr Schiedemann will represent Germany at the General Peace Conference.

THE PEACE CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT.

PARIS, January 20th.

Lieut. Colonel Sir Maurice Hankey, Secretary of the Imperial War Cabinet, has been appointed the British representative on the Peace Conference Secretariat.

The other four great Powers will make similar appointments.

EARLIER CABLES.

M. CLEMENCEAU'S VIEWS.

LONDON, January 20th.

A Havas message states:—M. Clemenceau, making a general statement in the Chamber of Deputies, said that the differences of opinion in the Conference were most natural. If every one had been unanimous there would have been no need for such a meeting. The whole object was to balance interests when such interests conflicted.

M. Clemenceau, continuing, stated that although publicity of the debates was generally favoured, one point of secrecy must be observed and that was when one Government puts forward a proposal opposed by the heads of another Government.

Concerning the League of Nations, M. Clemenceau added that it would be a delusion unless there was a general determination to make it a reality.

The object of the French Government was to bring about a complete agreement among the civilised nations and to avoid a recurrence of the abominations of war.

The French Press generally remarks on the danger of allowing the Conference to be reported by hearsay, but states that the Conference communiqué must contain at least as much information as the war communiqué.

LATEST CABLES.

POST-WAR EXCLUSION OF GERMANS?

PEACEFUL PENETRATION BEING PLANNED.

LONDON, January 20th.

The *Daily Express* correspondent in Berlin states that hundreds of thousands of Germans are busily planning to come to England and America to resume their world-wide business operations as soon as the steamers recommence.

FIRST INDIAN PEEB.

HONOUR FOR SIR S. P. SINHA.

LONDON, January 20th.

A Peerage for the Under Secretary of State for India, Sir S. P. Sinha, is officially announced.

MONARCHIC MOVEMENT IN PORTUGAL.

EX-KING MANUEL PROCLAIMED KING.

LONDON, January 20th.

A message from Lisbon states that the Monarchic conspiracy at Oporto and elsewhere has proclaimed ex-King Manuel King.

It is reported that ex-King Manuel is discouraging the movement.

POLAND.

PADEREWSKI GOVERNMENT GETTING BUSY.

PARIS, January 19th.

The Paderewski Government, which is convening the Constituent Assembly on February 9th has called up the 1898 class in Russian Poland.

THE UNCERTAIN FUTURE.

FRENCH SECURITY AGAINST ATTACKS.

PARIS, January 20th.

M. Dubout, the president of the Senate, presided at a Senate luncheon in honour of President Wilson. He referred to France's exposure to German attacks. World harmony was only possible when France was rid of the nightmare of invasion.

President Wilson, replying, paid a glowing tribute to France's sacrifices. He said there were many new elements which should help to reassure France against future attacks.

THE LATE PRINCE JOHN.

THEIR MAJESTIES' NOBLE EXAMPLE.

LONDON, January 20th.

The last moments of Prince John came so quietly and unexpectedly that there was no time for the nurse who was with him to summon Their Majesties to the bedside before he passed away.

The newspapers sympathetically point out how Their Majesties laboured unceasingly in war time, burying the tragedy of their youngest son's delicate health in silence in their hearts, never hinting to the nation the nature of the personal anxiety weighing upon them. Every father and mother throughout the Empire will understand what it means to lose the baby of the family.

All the newspapers emphasise that the Empire's sympathy will be heightened by the knowledge of Their Majesties' splendid and untiring example of public service during the past four years of war.

A CONFIRMED INVALID.

In recent years the delicate health of Prince John necessitated that he should always have an attendant. Consequently, he was never seen on public occasions with the others of the Royal Family, but lived in comparative privacy at Frogmore or Sandringham. The burial will probably be private, at Sandringham, on January 21st.

Public sympathy was expressed at all the Churches yesterday. The Archbishop at St. Paul's invited the congregation to join in silent prayer.

COURT MOURNING.

LONDON, January 20th.

The Court will go into mourning for a month from January 20th, and half-mourning for a fortnight after that period.

THE SPREAD OF BOLSHIEVISM

ESTHONIANS CAPTURE A REGIMENT.

HELSINGFORS, January 20th.

An Estonian communiqué records the fact that the enemy's Seventy-Sixth Regiment, comprising 800 men, were taken prisoners.

TROUBLOUS GERMANY.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY POLLING.

AMSTERDAM, January 20th.

A telegram from Berlin states that the polling for the National Assembly occurred on January 19th. The country was divided into 37 electoral districts. Every man and woman over the age of 20 had a right to vote. There were separate polling booths for men and women. The system is one of proportional representation. The final results will be known on January 25th.

A QUIET ELECTION.

BERLIN, January 20th.

The National Assembly elections passed off without special incident. Outside the various polling booths immense crowds, including a great many women, awaited patiently and calmly their turn to vote.

Strong forces of Government troops occupied all the important points, also patrolled on foot and in motor cars. Voting in Berlin, Potsdam and Spandau was extraordinary heavy. A notable spectacle in Berlin was the nuns proceeding to the polling booths in bodies.

Reports from the Provinces also indicate heavy polling and very few disturbances.

EARLY RESULTS.

AMSTERDAM, January 20th.

The *Handelsblad* correspondent telegraphs from Berlin the following results from the 24 Berlin polling booths: the German Democrats, 7,375; the German Nationals, 4,700; the Independent Socialists, 9,005; the German People's Party, 3,000; the Central Party, 2,254.

So far as can be ascertained the Majority Socialists secured a large majority in Schöneberg suburb.

Berlin, excluding suburbs, has 1,400,000 voters of whom at least 1,200,000 voted.

THE ALLIES AND RUSSIA.

IMPORTANT MEETINGS IN PARIS.

LONDON, January 20th.

A communiqué from Paris, dated January 20th, states that the representatives of the five great Powers met this morning.

M. Noulens, the French Ambassador in Russia, who left Archangel a few days ago, gave particulars of the situation in Russia.

M. Eric Scavenius, Danish Minister, who left Petrograd recently, makes a statement at to-morrow's meeting.

TEA AUCTION AT HOME.

GENERALLY CONSIDERED A SUCCESS.

LONDON, January 20th.

(Delayed.)

Yesterday's tea auction is generally considered a success. A million pounds were sold. Buyers were believed to represent Scandinavia, Holland and France. About 1s. 10d. per pound was paid for some of the best orange pekoes.

NATIONAL WAR BONDS.

COMING BRITISH ISSUES.

LONDON, January 20th.

The Press Bureau states: The Treasury notifies that after February 1st subscriptions will be received for the new series of National War Bonds at five per cent. for five or ten years, subject to income tax, or four per cent. for ten years. The first named series will be issued at par and may be redeemed at a premium. The last named series will be issued at 10½ and would be redeemable at par.

BRITISH POLICE DISSATISFACTION.

SECRET MEETING AT ALBERT HALL.

LONDON, January 20th.

Eight thousand delegates of the Police Union throughout the Kingdom held a secret meeting at the Albert Hall. It is understood that they are agitating against the alleged victimisation of the Union members, and for more pay.

EARLIER CABLES.

DEVASTATED FRANCE.

AREAS TO BE RESTORED.

LONDON, January 20th.

A Havas message states: The Arras Town Council unanimously voted the restoration of the town to its original aspect.

FRENCH DEMOBILISATION.

TERRITORIALS TO BE SENT BACK TO CIVIL LIFE.

LONDON, January 20th.

A Havas message states:—It is announced that 1,200,000 French soldiers will be demobilised by February 15th, and 3,000,000 by March 31st. Thus the whole of the two territorial classes in the Army will return to civil life.

THE RENEWED ARMISTICE.

GERMAN ENQUIRIES.

LONDON, January 20th.

A Havas message states:—At the Armistice Conference at Treves the German members asked when the blockade would end, the German prisoners-of-war be liberated and the preliminary peace conditions signed.

THE SILVER MARKET.

SHIPMENTS TO THE ORIENT.

NEW YORK, January 10th.

One million dollars, in silver, will be shipped on January 13th to India, making \$25,000,000 shipped to the Orient in the recent movements.

MESSERS. MONTAGU'S REPORT.

LONDON, January 10th.

Messrs. Samuel Montagu & Co.'s report states that the trade demand is somewhat active, but insufficiently so to incommode the market, which has been deprived of competition from abroad owing to the continued export restrictions.

The Shanghai exchange is quoted at 5/1.

MODERN EDUCATIONAL METHODS CRITICISED.

SMARTNESS IN PLACE OF CULTURE.

INTERESTING ADDRESS BY MR. L. FORSTER.

Last night, at St. Paul's College, under the auspices of the C.E.M.S., Mr. L. Forster, Headmaster, Victoria British School, delivered an interesting lecture on "Education." Professor H. G. Earle presided.

Mr. Forster pointed out that in England every form of education had its origin in religion. Until 1832 the Government did not recognise any duty towards the mass of the nation in regard to education. In that year it established the Committee of the Privy Council which made grants towards that object, but even then it acted through voluntary agents, namely the religious bodies, chiefly the Anglican Church. Mr. Forster then traced the development of popular elementary education under the aegis of the Church of England, and, to some extent, of the Free Churches with the aid of Government grants. This process continued for over thirty years until, owing to the changes incidental to the industrial revolution, the Church was unable to cope with the new requirements. Consequently, in 1870, the Education Act was passed—which created the School Boards throughout the country for the purpose of supplementing, but not supplanting, the existing educational facilities. Then began a competition which was quite unequal, for the School Boards had the local rates to draw upon. As a result, the Church schools were practically bankrupt by 1902, and they threatened to close and throw upon the rates the great burden of the work which they were performing unless the Government intervened. Faced with this situation, Mr. Balfour swept away the School Boards and transferred the control of primary education to a committee of the borough or county councils, at the same time giving the same local rate aid to the voluntary schools as to the other schools.

In return for providing and maintaining the fabric the Church was allowed to retain her Church teaching and Church atmosphere. It was this that gave rise to the Passive Resistance movement under the Rev. Dr. Clifford. To-day the stigma of poverty attached to Church schools, which catered for the submerged tenth in the older and poorer parts of the cities, while the Council schools nurtured the class that possessed the political power to-day. The communal neglect of the Church schools—such vital sources of the Church's power—was calculated to have very serious consequence to the Church. It was in striking contrast to the attitude of the Roman Catholic Church towards its schools.

THE PRESENT DAY TEACHER.

The lecturer then proceeded to a consideration of the present position of education and its possible and probable future. In the past, he said, the personality of the master has been of transcendent importance. The Victorian idea was that the ideal schoolmaster was a person who should profoundly influence the character of his pupils by a high moral tone, which would eventually be the means of ennobling the mass of the nation; in other words, the regeneration of the State was expected to come through the agency of the national system of education. This ideal has now been abandoned. In place of the teacher who is continually radiating his influence over his pupils, with whom he is in close and constant association, we have a succession of experts who give their efficient services and produce efficiency in their pupils without having much effect upon, or interest in, the development of their characters. What we are aiming at now is not so much culture and a high moral tone as commercial efficiency and smartness. Instead of the teacher being a kind of lay priest he becomes the tradesman selling his mental wares for the most they will bring. This is more largely due to the modern organisation of education than to the teacher himself.

It is very difficult to get in any bureaucratic system such as the present that spirit and tone which are so essential in a perfect scheme. This is owing to the fact that the personal responsibility of the teacher is largely undermined by the feeling that he is merely a small part in the colossal machinery—interchangeable at that—which works the system. His masters are people he seldom sees, while he is the victim of an elaborate spy system called an inspectorate. The nebulous committee which he serves by its strict regulations, demands and gets its pound of flesh, but rarely its drop of blood.

THE MODERN TENDENCY.

Mr. Forster then referred to the absence of corporate life, and all that it implied, in the council school, the public secondary school, and the new provincial university—where the keynote seemed to be specialization of study and efficiency, and the spiritual and emotional sides were not evoked. This, he observed, was especially unfortunate as many of the people who attended the Council school at best had not the benefit of a wholesome, refined and corrective home influence. In this connection it was true to say that the education of the people had reduced certain types of crime in the country, such as brutal assault, but, on the other hand, had increased others such as embezzlement. In other words, we were merely educating our criminals to sin high up instead of low down.

Mr. Forster proceeded:—"There is no doubt, also, that our educational establishments have been greatly influenced by America and Germany. The commercial success of these countries before the war caused us to modify our institutions and to make them approximate to those in these countries. This process was hastened by the war, which revealed as many of our educational defects. In a war it frequently happens that nations exchange ideals. We are so impressed with the resources of our adversary, we so fix our minds on his points of superiority, that we immediately try to emulate and surpass him on those points. The Prime Minister said in a recent speech that the feature of German life we had to fear most was his education."

There is no doubt that the curriculum of our schools even now is tending more and more to utilitarian and material ends. Vocational, technical and commercial schools are patently devoted to the creation of workmen who may produce more and so become more efficient parts of the commercial machine. Their aim is not cultural; it is practical. Likewise, science in the ordinary schools is taught not so much to create that rare and reverent interest in the wonders of nature as to produce engineers who will give us a new gun and harder armour-plate, chemists who will give us a new explosive, and doctors who will try to find a cure for venereal disease. More of those services would be required if the laws of God were inculcated in the schools. Were tolerance and love for our neighbours taught there would be fewer wars and consequently less waste of energy in producing armaments and weapons of destruction. If the Seventh Commandment were instilled more deeply into the minds of the young and purity generally, as taught by the Church, implanted in boys and girls, less would be heard of loathsome diseases and the energies of many doctors would be turned into more profitable directions. It is said, for instance, that owing to the careful instruction in youth the Irish are the most chaste man and women of the British Isles.

As with science so with the arts side of the school. Modern languages are taught not so much to enable the student to become acquainted with the literatures of France and Germany, to appreciate the humour of Moliere and the noble verse of Racine, as to enable him to book an order as a commercial traveller. So when Mr. Lau Chai-pak, last year, asked that poetry should be excluded from the curriculum of the school he was in front of the modern tendency which would exclude every feature of school life that does not tend to improve the balance-sheet.

A SYSTEM WITHOUT A SOUL.

The education of the greater part of the nation has passed, or is passing, from the keeping of the Church and has taken into the arms of Commerce, which the old Canonists said "non Deo placere potest," but which, realising its possibility of service, is re-shaping the whole body of its teaching to more and more practical and paying close attention to aspects of it which were formerly seriously neglected. Clinics have been set up where free medical attention is given to the sick and poor child, open-air schools are being constructed for the delicate child, food-centres have been established for the hungry child, and play-centres for the slum child. Thus the mental and physical parts of the child are being catered for. If only the system had a soul it would be perfect. Of course it is seriously questioned by many thoughtful men whether the State can successfully provide a complete education, for a large part of education must deal, or ought to deal, with moral development, apart from the fact that many still urge that religion ought to be the basis of all education. It is to be noted that great educationists like Mr. Fisher and Mr. Sadler always disclaim any intention of closing down the voluntary and private institutions for which, they say, there is much room and reason for existence, as there is likely to be in those places greater flexibility, freedom and scope for experiment than in State controlled places. That is why the Universities and the public schools remain outside of Government control.

In conclusion Mr. Forster urged that support should be given to the movement to improve the existing conditions of Church education by providing better buildings and University men to raise the tone of the schools. Greater attention, also, should be bestowed upon the Sunday schools. Education on Church lines was especially urgent at the present moment, for it was the age of democracy and commerce; the former required the spirit of Christianity to prevent it from being overbearing and the latter to prevent it from being material.

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Gradually Dodge Brothers will resume the grateful task of continuing to deserve the good will of America—and indeed of the whole world.

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MR. HUGHES ON PEACE TERMS.

ECONOMIC SAFEGUARDS.

Mr. Hughes, Prime Minister of Australia, was the guest of the British Empire Producers Organisation at a luncheon at the Connaught Rooms on November 13th.

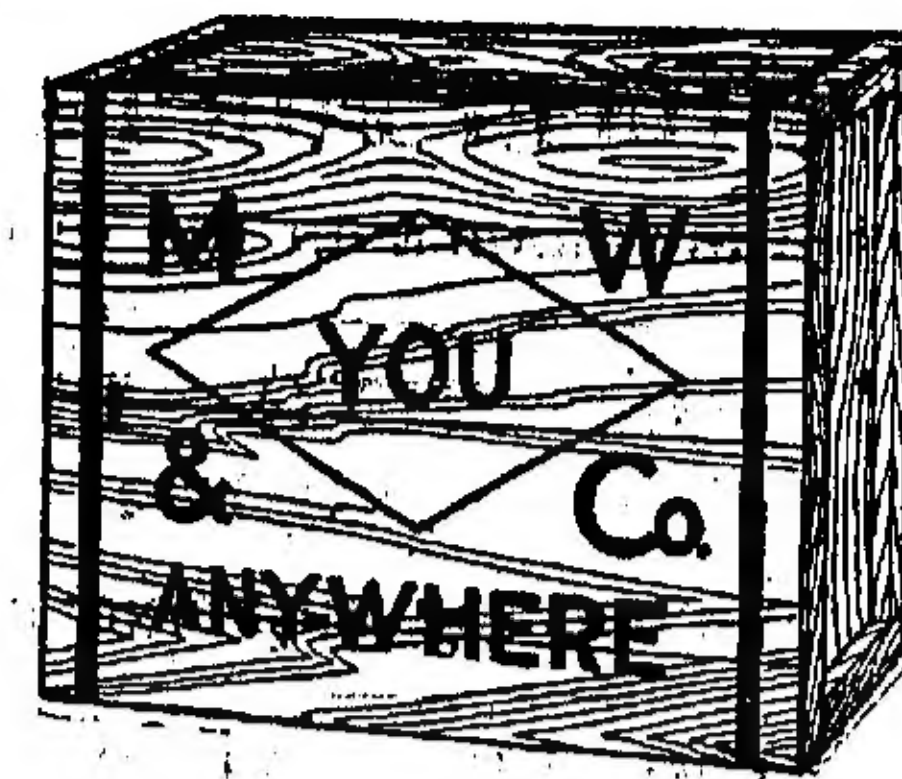
Lord Bessford, who presided, proposed the health of Mr. Hughes, and remarked that as shipping was the foundation of our trade and commerce, the sooner it was taken out of the control of the Government the better it would be for the country. (Hear, hear.) We must bury party politics, and think only of the national interests.

Mr. Hughes asked: What did we go to war for? We fought for right against might; we fought for our political and economic independence against military despotism and an avowed determination to reduce us to political and economic vassalage. Germany had sought to secure territory in order that she might rear more firmly her citadel of economic dominion—that she might get an abundance of raw materials, and force this Empire to receive her manufactured articles. If anybody wanted to know what the terms of peace would have been had Germany stood where we did to-day, let him look at the Brest-Litovsk Treaty and at the terms imposed on Roumania. (Hear, hear.) Were President Wilson's terms of peace such as would ensure the welfare of this Empire and develop the resources of our mighty heritage, which were coveted by Germany above everything? (Cries of "No.") Were the terms of peace to be such as would knit the Empire together more firmly than ever before? Were they to be such as would ensure Britain against a recurrence of the conditions that existed before the war? Had we forgotten that Germany was insidiously worming her way into the innermost citadels of our industrial and economic edifice? When peace had come, were we to go back to those days? He did not think the people of Great Britain would willingly do so. (Cries of "No.") He did not think it was for that purpose that the Dominions drew the sword.

DUTY TO THE PEOPLE.

"This is not the place, but in the proper place," Mr. Hughes proceeded, "I shall say what I think of what has been done. There is one way only in which justice can be done to the people of these islands and of the Overseas Dominions—that is by the adoption of a policy which will develop the resources of this Empire: an Empire so large and of such great possibilities that Germany risked all in order that she might snatch them for herself. What are we going to do with our victory? Are we going to move from that firm ground on which our feet rest into a morass? Are we going to forget our duty to our people? Whatever our intentions may be, neither the people of these islands nor of the Dominions will permit us to forget it. (Cheers.) If a policy is to be adopted in this country, or at the Peace Conference, or has been agreed to in any terms of peace, which prevents this Empire from developing its great resources, then I say we shall have fought this war in vain. (Cheers.) If Germany receives at the Peace Conference, or as a result of the terms of peace, a right to equal economic treatment with every other nation, we shall have won on the field of battle, but we shall have lost the war. (Cheers.) After the things which are spiritual, the greatest question which concerns every man and woman of high or low degree in this Empire is the economic question. What about our great mercantile marine, one-third of which has been sent to the bottom of the sea? Not only have we to consider how it is going to be replaced, but what employment is guaranteed for it. How shall we breed a virile people unless conditions exist which will ensure remunerative employment? There must be assurance for capital before it will find investment in this country. There must be assurance for Labour before it can be expected to discuss these questions in that spirit of harmony and compromise which is essential for the welfare of the nation. We must produce more wealth, and we must find markets in which to dispose of the things we produce. How can Imperial Preference ever do that which is necessary if this great market, the very pivot of any scheme of Empire, is flooded with goods from all countries, including Germany?"

"I speak as one having a right to speak on behalf of the Empire. (Cheers.) We have a right to see that such a policy shall be adopted as will give us the substance of those things for which we waged the war. We have a right to look at things plainly, and not to allow words to serve as a substitute for deeds. What is it to us that the Kaiser is down? What is it to us that in Germany Socialism and democracy are in the ascendant? How will that fill the mouths of our workmen in this country? How will that knit together the bonds of Empire? Is a nation to make unprovoked war against the world and to evade all the consequences merely by putting out one hand of men and putting in another? It seems to be a sufficient answer to all our demands, a complete restitution, repayment, and compensation for all our efforts, to say that Germany is a republic. I hope that the people of this country will insist that the conditions of peace shall be such as will be compatible with a policy that will develop our resources and place the foundations of this Empire on a still stronger basis." (Cheers.)



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No. 22, Des Vœux Road, West, HONGKONG.

BESTOWAL OF HONOURS.
POLITICS AND MONEY.In the House of Lords on November
13th the Earl of Selborne moved:

That an humble address be presented to His Majesty submitting that, whilst the Prime Minister is constitutionally responsible to the Crown for recommendations for the bestowal of honours, it is manifestly impossible for him to give his personal attention to an examination of the merits of all the cases which are brought to his notice; and humbly praying His Majesty to appoint a special committee of the Privy Council to report to His Majesty on all recommendations in respect of such classes of honours as His Majesty may be pleased to refer to it, and to direct that the report of this Committee on each case should be sent to the Prime Minister, and, when an honour which has been so reported upon has been conferred by His Majesty, that it should be laid before Parliament at the same time as the grant of the honour is announced.

His lordship said on previous occasions he, and those who were acting with him, had endeavoured to call attention to the particular form of danger which they believed existed in the sale of honours, many for the purpose of enlarging party funds. The Government had already agreed that all honours should be inserted in a supplement to the Gazette, and that a statement of the public service in respect of which each honour had been recommended to His Majesty should be published. He asserted that the danger of the sale of honours for the purposes of party funds still existed, and he was in a position to give facts privately, either to the Lord Privy Seal or to the Leader of the House, to show that the danger, though possibly checked, had not been killed. (Hear, hear.) He called attention to the matter because he wanted to preserve the granting of honours to those who deserve them by genuine public service. (Hear, hear.) Honours were permitted to be bought and sold in the market, or given with such profusion and carelessness that the undeserving received them, the inevitable consequence would be that the deserving would reject them. The London Gazette of June 4th, last, contained over sixty closely printed pages, and that was only one list of honours, and that was what was made was that the Prime Minister's responsibility became a farce. He could prove that great carelessness, impropriety, and constitutional sickness had occurred in dealing with these honours. He had been informed of one case in which the recipient received no communication either before or after it was gazetted. In another case, where a notification was sent, the proposed recipient on making inquiries found that his Majesty's pleasure had not been taken, and therefore he declined it. Then he could show that some very unworthy people had received honours. By unworthy he meant persons stigmatised in the public courts for highly dishonourable conduct, and the person who was the very worst type. Lastly, he could show that, in some cases, the real dispenser of the prerogative had been not the Sovereign nor the Prime Minister, but a private secretary. Unless the utmost care was taken, and a real procedure was provided for dealing with this matter carefully, it was quite certain that the door would one day be open to corruption if the whole system was left uncorrected. In saying that he made no suggestion of corruption against any existing private secretary. So far as he knew there had been no taint of corruption in this matter.

SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS.

The Earl of Crawford said he did not propose to contest the facts stated by Lord Selborne. He had himself come across mistakes during the last seven or eight years, which had produced very singular results, and quite recently he came across a case in which confusion arose over two persons of the same name, living in the same block of buildings. The gravamen of the charge had always been that great personages of great wealth received honours at the instance of the Prime Minister for a monetary consideration. It was quite clear that if the highest honours were to be reserved for the Prime Minister the danger of which Lord Selborne was afraid would not be in any way eliminated. It was also suggested that the long list of honours appearing in the London Gazette was a recognition that civilian honours were given at the expense of the soldiers. That was an entire misapprehension. The O.B.E. was instituted in order to give recognition to persons who were not fighting men or women, but who, none the less, had contributed much towards war service. The number of decorations given under the O.B.E. was quite insignificant in contrast with the number given to soldiers. In fact, for every decoration given to a civilian twenty or fifty had been given to the soldiers. Then, according to the motion, a kind of black list would be set up of those to be purged by the Committee. That was a most objectionable thing. Further, the composition of the Committee would be very limited. Politicians, ambassadors, Dominion and Overseas members, and others would be excluded, and finally the Lord Chancellor would doubtless take steps to prevent judges from serving thereon. It would not be at all easy to find capable and leisureed men to take charge of a task which might prove to be very onerous indeed. If the Prime Minister differed from the Committee, was he to be bound by the decision at the Committee? In many cases the Prime Minister would certainly be in a position to know infinitely more about a candidate for an honour than the proposed Committee.

The Earl of Selborne, interposing, said he had not suggested that the Committee should express any opinion as to whether an honour should be conferred or not. They would simply state what the record of the individual was.

The Earl of Crawford said the proposal that the report of the Committee should be published simultaneously with the announcement of the honour in the Gazette was open to the very gravest criticism. The people who had been receiving the Order of the British Empire were humble people, who had been and were doing great work for the country. It had been his duty on more than one occasion to make recommendations to that Order, and he could not say how bitterly he resented the remarks of persons of high standing and full of honours about the humble people who were receiving well-earned recognition for work of incalculable value. (Hear, hear.)

Judged upon its technical merits, the proposal was open to objection from many points of view. In many ways it was a measure on the Prime Minister, and the House of Commons was the proper body to bring forward these changes. There must be one righteous man in the House of Commons, and perhaps even a Privy Councillor could be found. This question had been discussed in their lordships' House three or four times, and Earl Curzon, who was still detained abroad, had already given a pledge that the greatest care would be exercised in view of the increased number of honours conferred during the war, and that the most careful scrutiny and examination would take place. Great care had been exercised.

Lord Lee said it was time to raise a protest against this attempt to depreciate the value of the small rewards given in consideration of war services, because it could have no other effect than to poison the proper pride those humble individuals felt at the recognition of their services at the hands of His Majesty.

The Marquis of Lansdowne said he was prepared to believe that there were cases in which the Crown had not been well advised in the exercise of the Royal prerogative, and if Lord Selborne could really show a way of preventing the possibility of making mistakes in the future, he would be inclined to follow him. Where mistakes had been made, by all means let them ascertain who was responsible for them, but the effect of Lord Selborne's motion would not be to fix responsibility more distinctly than at present. He could not believe that there had been anything like corruption in connection with the issue of war honours. It seemed to him that the plan of the noble Earl would not work well or produce the desired result. The Committee was to inquire into the honourable or dishonourable record of the person upon whom it was proposed to confer an honour. When they came to the dishonourable side of the question the Committee would have a very serious task to perform, and practically they would be turned into a sort of private inquiry office. The responsibility would certainly be removed from the shoulders of the man who ought to bear it.

The Marquis of Salisbury said the speeches to which their lordships had just listened showed how difficult was the path of reform. They ought to take the necessary steps to prevent the possibility of the charge being made that honours had been sold for money, directly or indirectly, or that they had been given without proper care. With regard to the O.B.E. honours, he desired in no way to cast any aspersions upon those who had been granted these honours for services rendered during the war. He and those who thought with him were only doing their best to see that these honours were maintained at a high standard—(hear, hear)—and in that surely they were not unacceptable to the sort of shameful insinuation of the noble Earl. (Hear, hear.)

What was there to be afraid of? Was the noble Earl satisfied that these honours should be conferred practically upon the choice of private secretaries? Was the House satisfied with such a situation? If not, then surely they ought to try and find a remedy.

On the question being put, a division was challenged, but was not persisted in, and the motion was negatived.

WHO FIRED THE LAST SHOT?
EARLIER WARS THAT DID NOT
STOP TO TIME.

In a few days, perhaps, we shall hear who fired the last shot in the great war, writes a correspondent in a home paper, and the time may come when a controversy will arise on the point, although in these days of wireless and easy communication all parts of the fighting line should know to the minute the time of the cessation of hostilities.

It was different in the old days when fighting sometimes continued for weeks, if not months, after peace had been declared. One great battle at least was fought after a war had come to an end. This was Toulouse, the concluding engagement of the Peninsular War, in which Wellington defeated the French. Hardly had the engagement ceased when a travel-worn courier galloped up to say that Napoleon had abdicated and the war was already over.

In the Crimean war a fiercer engagement was fought near Karakoram before the commanders knew that fighting should cease. In the Spanish-American war Manila was taken the day after the armistice was arranged, as cable communication had been cut and neither side was aware of the fact.

The armistices put a dramatic end to two engagements of that war. An American squadron was bombarding Manzanillo, when a white flag was hoisted on shore. It was thought that the Spaniards had capitulated, and an officer was sent to arrange matters, but, to his surprise, hostilities had ceased. A similar incident happened at Calbarien, where a cruiser was covering a landing party. In the middle of the firing the Spaniards hoisted a white flag, and a boat put off to the Americans to announce the cessation of hostilities.

In our war with America a century ago engagements took place at sea months after peace was signed, as, although there were rumours of peace, the American commander did not believe them. In the American Civil War Lee had surrendered and the whole nation was rejoicing before some detachments in Texas heard the news, and the last engagement, or rather skirmish, occurred, on May 12th, 1865, nearly a month later.

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TIJIPANAS	JAVA	14th Feb.	22nd Feb.	JAVA

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SHANGHAI	"SUNNING"	On 23rd Jan. Noon.
SHANGHAI	"SINGAN"	On 23rd Jan. 3 P.M.
SHANGHAI	"YINCHOW"	On 26th Jan. Noon.
SHANGHAI	"KUEIOW"	On 27th Jan. Noon.
SHANGHAI	"SINKIANG"	On 28th Jan. Noon.
SHANGHAI	"SUIKIANG"	On 30th Jan. Noon.

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NORE	23rd February.	30th March.	8th April.
NOVARA	9th March	13th April.	22nd April.
NELLORE	26th March.	30th April	10th May.

FOR

BOMBAY VIA STRAITS AND COLOMBO.

Steamer	Leave Hongkong about	Due at BOMBAY about
DILWARA	...	29th January.

SAILINGS ALSO TO

SHANGHAI, MOJI, KOBE AND YOKOHAMA.

S.S.	Leave Hongkong about
DUNERA	28th January.

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DESTINATION	STEAMER & DISPLACEMENT	SAILING DATE
SHANGHAI, KOBE & YOKOHAMA	INABA MARU ... 12,600 Tons	Thurs. 23rd Jan. at 11 A.M.
NAGASAKI, KOBE & YOKOHAMA	TANGO MARU ... 13,700 Tons	SAT. 22nd Feb. at 11 A.M.
SHANGHAI, MOJI & KOBE	AKITA MARU ... 8,750 Tons	Tues. 21st Jan.
	KOSOKU MARU ... 7,000 Tons	Mon. 27th Jan.
LONDON or LIVERPOOL via SINGAPORE, MALACCA, PENANG, COLOMBO, SUEZ and PORT SAID	TAMBA MARU ... 12,610 Tons	Fri. 24th Jan. at 11 A.M.
	MISHIMA MARU ... 10,950 Tons	7th Feb. at 11 A.M.
MELBOURNE via MANILA, ZAMBOANGA, TRINIDAD, TOWNVILLE, BRISBANE & SYDNEY	NIKKO MARU ... 9,600 Tons	Mon. 3rd Feb. at 11 A.M.
NEW YORK via SHANGHAI, KOBE, YOKOHAMA, SAN FRANCISCO and PANAMA CANAL	KAMAKURAMARU ... 12,410 Tons	Wed. 19th Feb. at 11 A.M.
BOMBAY via SINGAPORE, MALACCA & COLOMBO	TAIAN MARU ... 7,000 Tons	SUN. 28th Jan.
CALCUTTA via SINGAPORE, PENANG and RANGOON	SHINOHIMARU ... 7,000 Tons	SUN. 28th Jan.
	KEIFUKU MARU ...	Fri. 24th Jan.

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KOREA MARU	20,000	10th Feb. From Korea.
SHINYO MARU	22,000	5th Mar. 1919.

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NIPPON MARU	11,000	May 7th.

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